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(54) **MASTER CYLINDER DEVICE FOR REAR WHEEL BRAKE OF MOTORCYCLE AND ARRANGEMENT METHOD OF MASTER CYLINDER DEVICE FOR REAR WHEEL BRAKE OF MOTORCYCLE**

USPC 303/48, 115.6, 344, 82; 188/344, 181 A, 188/72.4, 24.14; 180/219, 227; 280/124.128

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

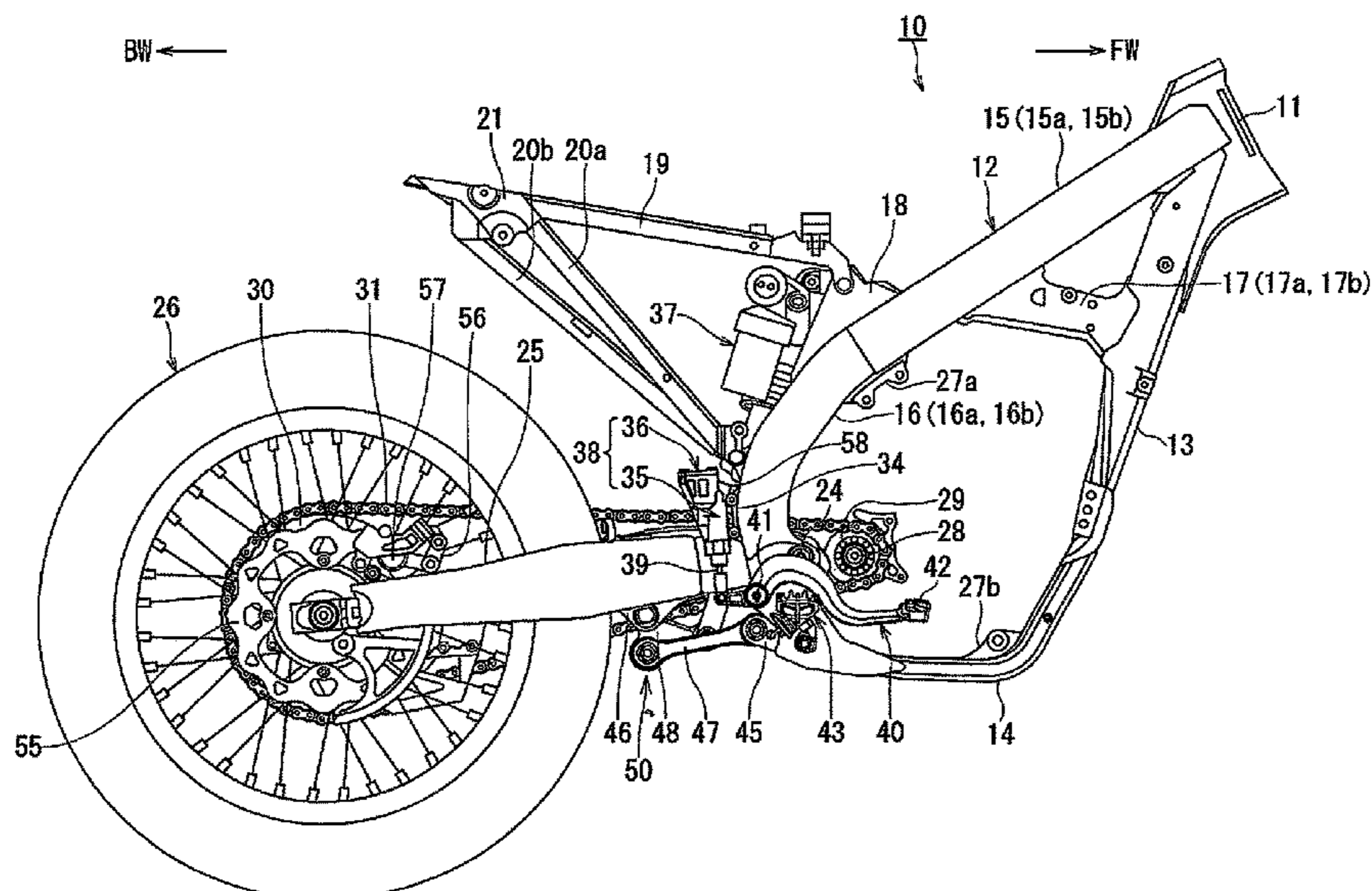
(51) **Int. Cl.**
B62L 3/04 (2006.01)

A master cylinder device **38** for a rear wheel brake of a motorcycle includes a master cylinder **35** and a reserve tank **36**. The cylinder **35** discharges brake fluid when a piston thereof is pushed by depression of a brake pedal **40**. The reserve tank is integrally formed with a cylinder body **35a** of the master cylinder **35**. A contour **60** of a rear wheel side of the master cylinder device **38** extending continuously from a bottom end α of the master cylinder body **35a** in a vertical direction to an upper end β of the reserve tank **36** in the vertical direction is linearly formed to be oriented obliquely rearward and upward in a vehicle side view.

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **B62L 3/04** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC B60T 11/22; B60T 11/16; B60T 11/106; B60T 17/04; B60T 15/043; B60T 13/36; B60T 13/365; B60T 13/403; B60T 7/06; B62L 3/04; B62J 25/00; B62K 19/38; B62K 23/08; B62K 25/283; B62K 25/286

4 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



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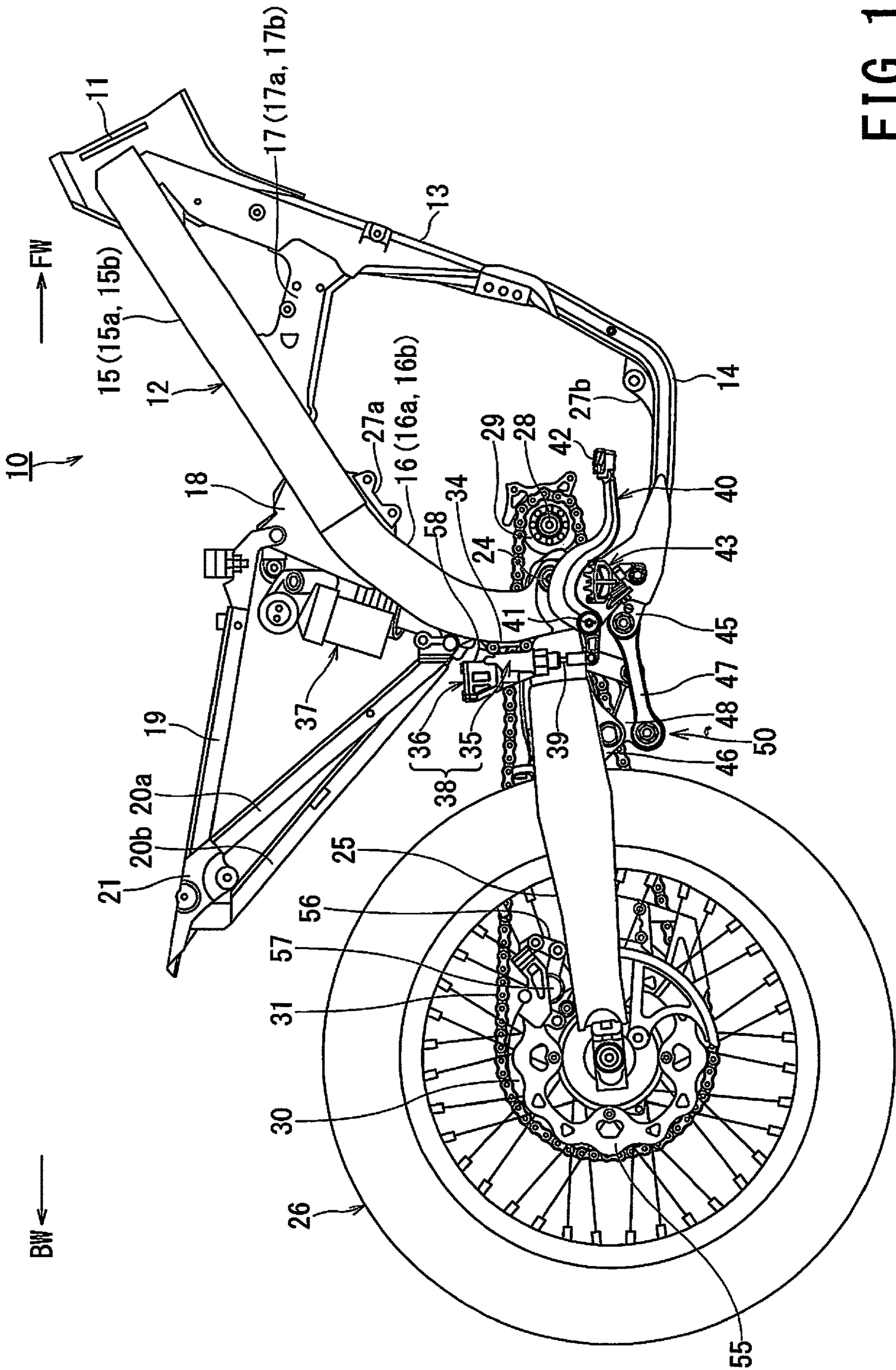


FIG. 1

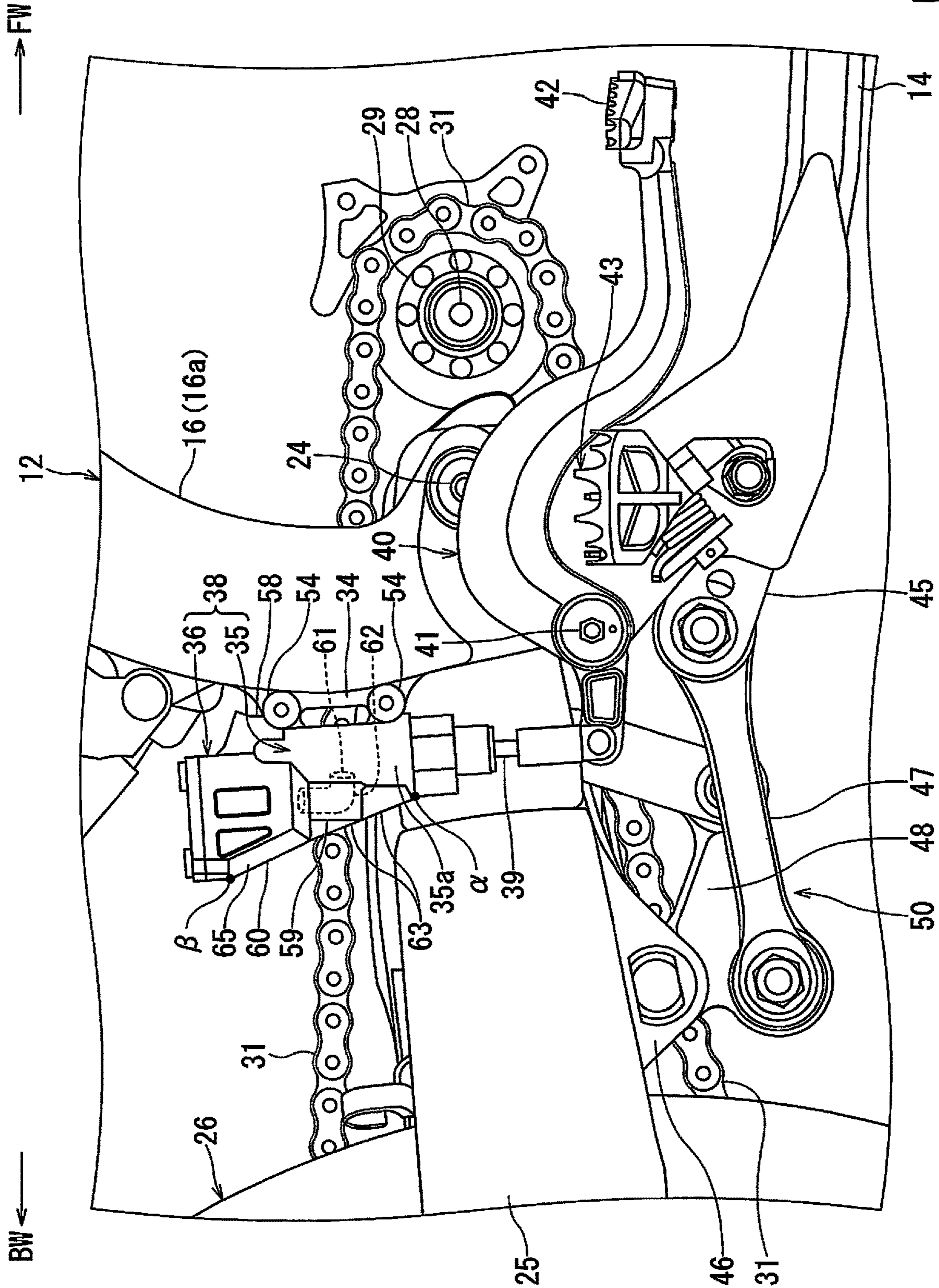


FIG. 2

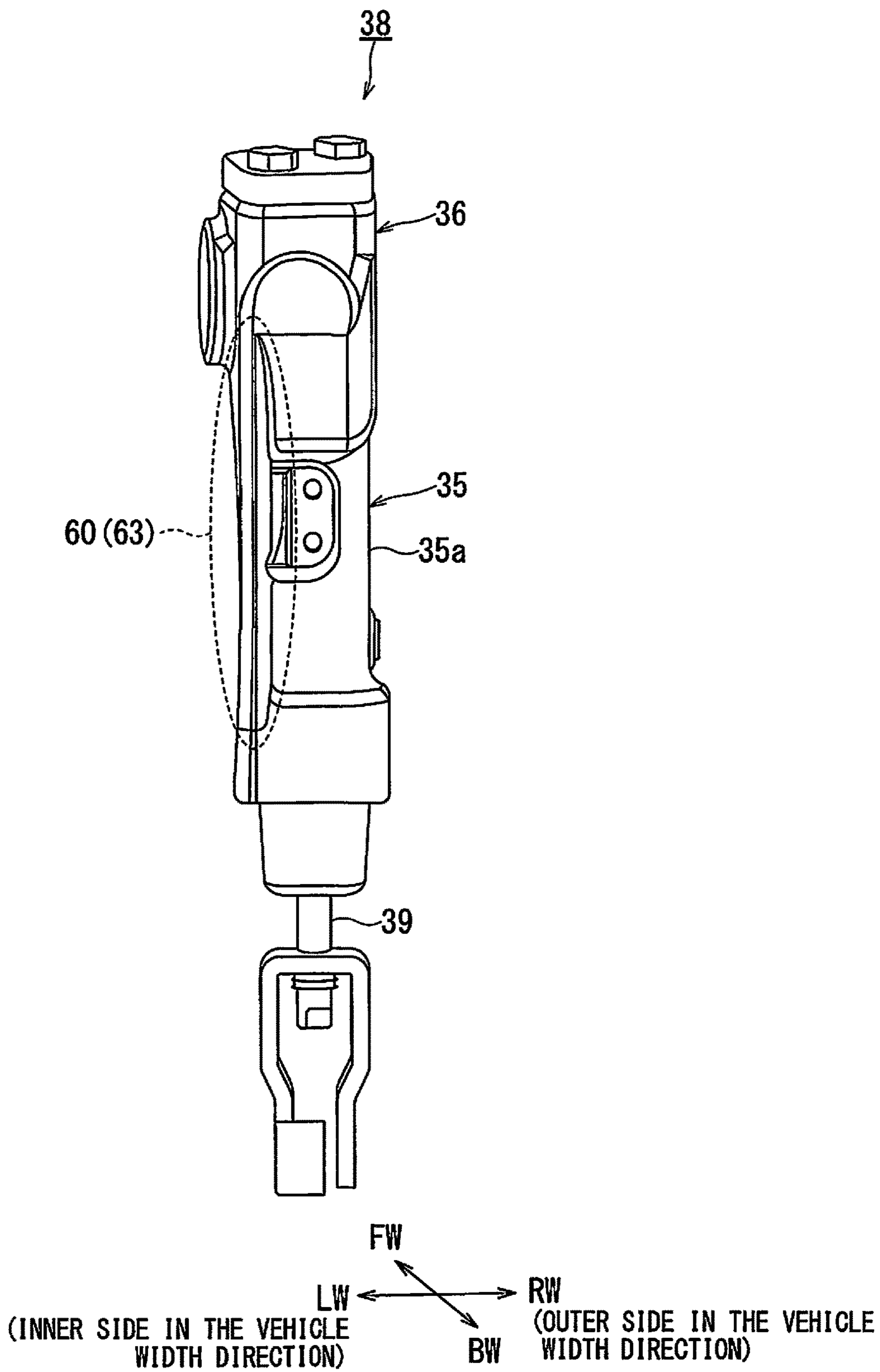


FIG. 3

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**MASTER CYLINDER DEVICE FOR REAR
WHEEL BRAKE OF MOTORCYCLE AND
ARRANGEMENT METHOD OF MASTER
CYLINDER DEVICE FOR REAR WHEEL
BRAKE OF MOTORCYCLE**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of priority of Japanese Patent Application No. 2017-016825, filed Feb. 1, 2017, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

Embodiments of the present invention relate to a structure of a master cylinder device included in a rear wheel brake of a motorcycle.

Description of the Related Art

Conventionally, there is a known technique in which a reserve tank of a rear wheel brake of a motorcycle is integrally formed with a master cylinder (e.g., Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2003-291799).

In a conventional motorcycle, a connection structure of a reserve tank integrated with a master cylinder is stepped to protrude obliquely rearward, the rear wheel side, and upward with respect to the master cylinder body, the master cylinder standing upright in the vertical direction.

There is a possibility that incoming materials such as pebbles and sticks may be caught in the gap between the protruding reserve tank and the upper surface of the swing arm swinging up and down so as to damage the reserve tank.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the above-described problem, an object of the present invention is to provide a master cylinder device for a rear wheel brake of a motorcycle, in which the master cylinder is integrated with a reserve tank, to suppress biting or tangling of incoming materials by the master cylinder.

A master cylinder device for a rear wheel brake of a motorcycle according to the present embodiment includes a master cylinder, and a reserve tank. The master cylinder discharges brake fluid when a piston thereof is pushed by depression of a brake pedal. The reserve tank is integrally formed with a cylinder body of the master cylinder. A contour of a rear wheel side of the master cylinder device extending continuously from a bottom end α of the master cylinder body in a vertical direction to an upper end of the reserve tank in the vertical direction is linearly formed to be oriented obliquely rearward and upward in a vehicle side view.

The present invention provides a master cylinder device for a rear wheel brake of a motorcycle and an arrangement method of a master cylinder device for a rear wheel brake of a motorcycle, in each of which the master cylinder is integrated with a reserve tank, to reduce incoming materials tangled or bitten by the master cylinder.

The nature and further characteristic features of the present invention will be described hereinafter in the following descriptions made with reference to the accompanying

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drawings, and the other advantages effects and functions of the present invention will be also made clear hereinafter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a right side view illustrating a state in which a master cylinder device for a rear wheel brake of a motorcycle according to the present embodiment is mounted on a vehicle-body frame;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged right side view illustrating the periphery of the master cylinder device for a rear wheel brake of a motorcycle according to the present embodiment; and

FIG. 3 is a rear view illustrating the master cylinder device for a rear wheel brake of a motorcycle according to the present embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Hereinbelow, embodiments of the present invention will be described by referring to the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 is a right side view illustrating a vehicle-body frame 10 of a motorcycle.

In FIG. 1, the front side of the vehicle-body frame 10 is denoted by the reference sign FW, and the vehicle rear side is denoted by the reference sign BW.

The vehicle-body frame 10 includes a head pipe 11, a right-and-left pair of main frames 12, a single down frame 13, and a right-and-left pair of lower frames 14.

The pair of main frames 12 expand to the right and the left, respectively, from the head pipe 11 at the front end of the vehicle-body frame 10, and extend obliquely rearward and downward. The right main frame 12 is composed of a right tank frame 15a and a right body frame 16a, and the left main frame 12 is composed of a left tank frame 15b and a left body frame 16b (hereinafter, the right-and-left pair of tank frames 15a and 15b are collectively denoted as the tank frames 15, and the right-and-left pair of body frames 16a and 16b are collectively denoted as the body frames 16). The tank frames 15 extend obliquely rearward and downward, and a non-illustrated fuel tank is placed on the tank frames 15. The body frames 16 are curved from the rear end portions of the respective tank frames 15 (i.e., from the middle of the main frames 12), and extend below the vehicle body.

The down frame 13 extends downward from the lower side of the head pipe 11.

The pair of lower frames 14 are curved from both sides of the lower end portion of the down frame 13, and extend rearward in the horizontal direction. The respective rear end portions of the pair of lower frames 14 are connected to the lower ends of right and left body frames 16 respectively, which constitute the front structure of the vehicle-body frame 10.

The pair of tank frames 15a and 15b are connected to the down frame 13 by a right-and-left pair of reinforcing members 17a and 17b, respectively (hereinafter, the right-and-left pair of reinforcing members 17a and 17b are collectively denoted as the reinforcing members 17). As a result, the rear side around the head pipe 11 is formed into a triangular reinforcing structure in a vehicle side view, and the rigidity is enhanced.

A pair of mounting brackets 18 is fixed to the upper portion of the curved back portion side of the main frames 12.

An upper end of a rear cushion unit 37 and respective front end portions of a right-and-left pair of seat rails 19 are

mounted on the mounting bracket **18**. The pair of seat rails **19** extend obliquely rearward and upward, and are reinforced by right-and-left pair of support frames **20a** and **20b** which are sheet pillars. The support frames **20a** and **20b** extend obliquely rearward and upward from the rear side in the middle of the curved portion of the main frames **12**. The respective rear ends of the support frames **20a** and **20b** are connected to the respective rear ends of the pair of seat rails **19** by the end bracket **21** to constitute the rear structure of the vehicle-body frame **10**.

The body frames **16** of the main frames **12** serve for a center frame or a pivot frame, and a pivot shaft **24** is provided on the lower front side of the body frames **16**. A swing arm **25** is swingably provided around the pivot shaft **24**. The swing arm **25** extends from the pivot shaft **24** toward the rear side of the vehicle body, and includes a right-and-left pair of arms. A rear wheel **26** is mounted on the rear end portions of respective arms of the swing arm **25**.

Further, a non-illustrated engine is mounted on the vehicle-body frame **10** by plural suspension brackets **27a** and **27b**. A drive sprocket **29** is provided on an output shaft **28** of the engine. A drive chain **31** is provided to transmit the power of the engine and to drive the rear wheel **26** to rotate. The drive chain **31** is hung around the drive sprocket **29** on one side and a driven sprocket **30** on the opposite side. The driven sprocket **30** is fixed to the axle of the rear wheel **26**. The output shaft **28** of the engine is positioned in front of the pivot shaft **24** which supports the swing arm **25**.

A mounting bracket **34** is provided at the rear portion in the middle of the curved portion of the right body frame **16a** of the right main frame **12**, and a master cylinder **35** vertically oriented is mounted on the mounting bracket **34** with a fixing member such as a fastening bolt. A reserve tank **36** is disposed on the master cylinder **35**, the reserve tank **36** project rearward from the rear side of the master cylinder **35**. The reserve tank **36** is integrally formed with the master cylinder **35** or be joined to the master cylinder **35**. The master cylinder **35** and the reserve tank **36** constitute a master cylinder device **38** for a rear wheel brake of a motorcycle (hereinafter, the master cylinder device **38** is referred to as "the integrally-formed cylinder device **38**").

A piston rod **39** is energized by a spring from the master cylinder **35** of the integrally-formed cylinder device **38** so as to protrude downward. The lower end of the piston rod **39** is pin-coupled to the rear end portion of an arm-shaped brake pedal **40**. The brake pedal **40** is pivotally supported by a brake pivot shaft **41** which is provided at the lower portion of the right body frame **16a**. When a rider pushes down a pedal part **42** provided at the front end of the brake pedal **40** with the foot, the brake pedal **40** rotates clockwise as shown in FIG. 1 and is pushed in. By this rotation, the piston rod **39** is pushed up and the master cylinder **35** is operated.

The rear cushion unit **37** is connected with the vehicle-body frame **10** with a cushion link mechanism **50**. The cushion link mechanism **50** is composed of a frame-side link bracket **45** provided at the lower end portion of the body frames **16** of the main frames **12**, a swing-arm-side link bracket **46** provided on the lower side of the front portion of the swing arm **25**, a cushion link lever **48**, and a connecting link rod **47**. The cushion link lever **48** is substantially in the form of a triangle, and the rear end portion of the cushion link lever **48** is supported by the swing-arm-side link bracket **46** such that the cushion link lever **48** can freely swing up and down. The connecting link rod **47** connects the middle portion of the cushion link lever **48** to the frame-side link bracket **45**.

The lower end portion of the rear cushion unit **37** is connected to the front end portion of the cushion link lever **48** of the cushion link mechanism **50**. The upper end of the rear cushion unit **37** is connected to the mounting bracket **18** which is provided at the upper rear portion of the curved portion of the main frames **12**. The swing arm **25** is supported by the cushion link mechanism **50** and the rear cushion unit **37** so as to be stably swingable around the pivot shaft **24**.

Next, a description will be given of a rear wheel brake mechanism on which the integrally-formed cylinder device **38** is mounted.

On the axle of the rear wheel **26**, a brake disk **55** is fixed via a hub drum.

On the brake disk **55**, a brake caliper **57** fixed to the swing arm **25** via a bracket **56** is provided to sandwich the brake disc **55**.

On the right body frame **16a**, a brake pivot shaft **41** is mounted near the footrest **43** and is positioned above and behind the footrest **43**.

On the brake pivot shaft **41**, the arm-shaped brake pedal **40** is pivotally supported at the rear side of the intermediate portion. The brake pedal **40** curves upward bypassing the footrest **43**, and extends forward avoiding interfering with the footrest **43** at the time of braking. At the front end of the brake pedal **40**, a pedal member **42** is disposed. The rear end portion of the brake pedal **40** is pin-connected to the lower end portion of the piston rod **39** and is linked to the piston rod **39**.

When the pedal member **42** is depressed, the brake pedal **40** rotates clockwise to push the piston rod **39** upward and moves a non-illustrated piston in the master cylinder **35** upward into a fluid-filled chamber. The upward movement of the piston makes the brake fluid discharged from a discharge port **58** which is connected to the front side surface of the upper portion of the fluid-filled chamber in the state of being slightly inclined forward from the vertical direction.

The discharge port **58** and the brake caliper **57** are connected to each other by a non-illustrated brake tube. Brake pads in the brake caliper **57** are pushed out to the brake disc **55** by the brake fluid which is pressured by the upward motion of the piston in the master cylinder **35**, and thereby the brake pads sandwich the brake disc **55**. The brake pads are pressed against the brake disc **55** to generate friction, and thereby brake the rear wheel **26**.

Next, the more detail describes of the integrally-formed cylinder device **38** will be referred.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged right side view of the periphery of the integrally-formed cylinder device **38** according to the present embodiment.

The mounting bracket **34** of the integrally-formed cylinder device **38** is fixed to the rear side of the lower end portion of the right side body frame **16a** with a bolt **54** such that the longitudinal direction of cylinder body **35a** is in the vertical direction. A cylinder body **35a** of the master cylinder **35** is mounted on the mounting bracket **34** with screws.

On the upper rear side of the master cylinder **35**, the reserve tank **36** is integrally formed with the cylinder body **35a** and communicates with (i.e., be spatially connected with) the cylinder body **35a**.

In other words, to the cylinder body **35a**, a communication passage forming member **59** is integrally formed, and a communication passage **62** is formed inside the communication passage forming member **59** connected to a replen-

ishing port **61** provided on the rear side surface (i.e., rear-wheel side surface) of the fluid-filled chamber and is extending upward.

The upper end of the communication passage **62** communicates with the fuel supply port at the bottom portion of the reserve tank **36**. The communication passage forming member **59** and the reserve tank **36** are integrally molded.

Further, the reserve tank **36**, the cylinder body **35a**, and the communication passage forming member **59** are integrally molded and formed.

The fluid storage chamber inside the reserve tank **36** communicates with the fluid-filled chamber inside the master cylinder **35** via the communication passage **62**, and stores the brake fluid.

The communication passage **62** which is integrally formed on the upper portion of the cylinder body **35a** to extend along the side surface of the cylinder body **35a** communicates with (i.e., spatially connected with) a replenishing port **61** which opens on the side surface of the cylinder body **35a**.

In other words, the communication passage forming member **59** is bent almost perpendicularly and is connected to both of the reserve tank **36** and the cylinder body **35a** of the master cylinder **35** respectively.

The communication passage forming member **59** and the reserve tank **36** integrally formed therewith are disposed to protrude from the rear side surface of the cylinder body **35a** due to positional relationship with the discharge port **58** which is connected to the front side surface of the cylinder body **35a**.

In a conventional master cylinder which is a type of being integrally formed with a reserve tank, discontinuous steps are formed by the contour of rear side of the cylinder body **35a**, the bottom surface of the reserve tank **36**, and the contour of rear side of the reserve tank **36**.

Thus, in such a conventional master cylinder, there is a possibility that incoming materials such as fly stones and rods are tangled into the gap between the bottom surface of the reserve tank **36** and the upper surface of the swing arm **25** swinging up and down. In this case, and the reserve tank **36** is damaged.

Hence, in the integrally-formed cylinder device **38** according to the present embodiment, a contour of the rear wheel side of the integrally-formed the master cylinder device **38** is formed to be inclined obliquely rearward and upward and extend substantially linearly upward in the vertical direction. The above-described "rear end surface of the integrally formed cylinder device **38**" is a continuous region from the lower end α of the cylinder body **35a** in the vertical direction to the upper end β of the reserve tank **36** in the vertical direction in a vehicle side view as shown in FIG. 1, and is hereinafter abbreviated as the rear-contour **60**.

The term "lower end α in the vertical direction of the cylinder body **35a**" may include the vicinity of the lower end α of the cylinder body **35a** in the vertical direction. In other words, as shown in FIG. 2, this term also includes a case where the lower end of the substantially linear rear-contour **60** (i.e., rear end surface of the integrally-formed cylinder device **38**) becomes the lower end of the internal space of the master cylinder **35**.

Further, the term "upper end β of the reserve tank **36** in the vertical direction" may include the vicinity of the upper end β of the reserve tank **36** in the vertical direction. In other words, as shown in FIG. 2, this term includes a case where the upper end of the substantially linear rear-contour **60** is equivalent to the height of the middle part of the inner space of the reserve tank **36**.

In order to make the rear-contour **60** substantially linear (i.e., straight line or flat), for instance, the integrally-formed cylinder device **38** has a substantially right triangle shape in the state of being mounted on the vehicle-body frame **10** in a vehicle side view and a plate-shaped rib **63** protruding from the cylinder body **35a** toward the side of the rear wheel **26** is fixed to the cylinder body **35a** as shown in FIG. 2.

The rib **63** fills the space around the step formed by the rear side surface of the communication passage forming member **59** and the bottom surface of the reserve tank **36** such that the step is buried to be flat.

The rib **63** also fills the space around the step formed by the rear side surface of the cylinder body **35a** and the bottom surface of the communication passage forming member **59** such that the step is buried to be flat.

As a result, the linear oblique side of the ribs **63** forms the rear-contour **60**.

Further, the mechanical reinforcement function of the rib **63** also contributes to reduction in redundant thickness of the cylinder body **35a**.

The rear-contour **60** is formed to be inclined at an angle of 40 degrees or more and less than 90 degrees with respect to the upper side or the bottom side of the reserve tank **36**. Note that the bottom side of the reserve tank **36** is in parallel with the horizontal direction.

In other words, the integrally-formed cylinder device **38** is configured such that the holding angle between the rear-contour **60** and the swing arm **25** becomes an acute angle close to an obtuse angle (i.e., an acute angle which is 40 degrees or more and less than 90 degrees).

By setting the inclination of the rear-contour **60** to such an angle, it is possible to prevent incoming materials from being caught between the rear-contour **60** and the upper surface of the swing arm **25**.

This angle is more preferably an acute angle closer to an obtuse angle, e.g., 60 degrees or more and less than 80 degrees.

FIG. 3 is a rear view of the integrally-formed cylinder device **38** according to the present embodiment.

The inner side in the vehicle width direction, i.e., the left-hand side of the rider getting on the motorcycle is indicated as LW, and the right-hand side of the rider is indicated as RW.

In order to more effectively prevent incoming materials from tangled, the rib **63** is preferably provided along the inner edge in the vehicle width direction (i.e., the wheel side in the vehicle width direction) on the bottom surface of the reserve tank **36** as shown in FIG. 3.

Returning to FIG. 2, the description of the structure around the reserve tank **36** will be continued.

Preferably, the shape of the reserve tank **36** is an inverted trapezoid in which the base side is shorter in length than the upper side in the vertical direction, by inclining the rear surface **65** of the reserve tank **36** rearward and upward.

The rear surface **65** forms a part of the linear shape of the rear-contour **60**.

By making the reserve tank **36** into an inverted trapezoidal shape, the tank capacity can be increased.

Also in this case, the upper end of the rib **63** can be lowered to the bottom surface of the reserve tank **36**.

The right angled corner at the side surface and the bottom surface of the reserve tank **36** disappears from the lower end of the reserve tank **36** by cutting the rear surface **65** into askew-cut shape. Thus, even when the rib **63** is not provided, the possibility of incoming materials being bitten by the bottom surface of the reserve tank **36** is reduced.

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According to the integrally-formed cylinder device **38** of the above-described embodiments, it is possible to suppress tangling of incoming materials between the swing arm **25** and the integrally-formed cylinder device **38**.

In addition, it is also possible to prevent the contact of the rider's foot with the protruding corner portions of the reserve tank **36** and the communication passage forming member **59**, which happened sometimes.

While certain embodiments have been described, these embodiments have been presented by way of example only, and are not intended to limit the scope of the inventions.

The above-described embodiments may be embodied in various forms; furthermore, various omissions, substitutions, changes, and combinations of the above-described embodiments may be made without departing from the spirit of the inventions.

The accompanying claims and their equivalents are intended to cover such forms or modifications as would fall within the scope and spirit of the inventions.

What is claimed is:

1. A master cylinder device for a rear wheel brake of a motorcycle comprising:

a master cylinder that discharges brake fluid when a piston thereof is pushed by depression of a brake pedal; and a reserve tank integrally formed with a cylinder body of the master cylinder,

wherein a contour of a rear wheel side of the master cylinder device extending continuously from a bottom end of the master cylinder body in a vertical direction to an upper end of the reserve tank in the vertical direction is linearly formed to be oriented obliquely rearward and upward in a vehicle side view, wherein a linear shape of the contour of the rear wheel side of the master cylinder device is formed by a plate-shaped rib

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protruding from the cylinder body toward the rear wheel side; and the rib is provided along an inner edge of a bottom surface of the reserve tank in a vehicle width direction.

2. The master cylinder device according to claim **1**, wherein the reserve tank is formed into an inverted trapezoidal shape in which a base side is shorter in length than an upper side in the vertical direction in the vehicle side view and wherein a rear surface of the reserve tank is formed to be inclined rearward and upward.

3. A master cylinder device for a rear wheel brake of a motorcycle comprising:

a master cylinder that discharges brake fluid when a piston thereof is pushed by depression of a brake pedal; and a reserve tank integrally formed with a cylinder body of the master cylinder,

wherein a contour of a rear wheel side of the master cylinder device extending continuously from a bottom end of the master cylinder body in a vertical direction to an upper end of the reserve tank in the vertical direction is linearly formed to be oriented obliquely rearward and upward in a vehicle side view, and

wherein the contour of the rear wheel side of the master cylinder device has an inclination of 40 degrees or more and less than 90 degrees with respect to a bottom surface of the reserve tank.

4. An arrangement method of a master cylinder device for a rear wheel brake of a motorcycle, wherein the master cylinder device according to claim **1** is arranged in such a manner that the linearly formed contour of the rear wheel side of the master cylinder device is inclined at an angle of 40 degrees or more and less than 90 degrees from a horizontal direction in a vehicle side view.

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